

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A graft retaining system for retaining a graft in a bone tunnel comprising:

a graft block having a proximal end and a distal end, the graft block being sized to slidingly fit within the bone tunnel, the graft block including a distally-facing support surface at the distal end for supporting an intermediate connector, at least one transverse throughbore being formed through the support surface;

an intermediate connector connecting a predetermined portion of the graft and a predetermined portion of the graft block, the intermediate connector formed of an elongated member forming a loop supported by the support surface of the graft block, the elongated member having a first end and a second end, at least one of the first and second ends being threaded in one direction through the at least one transverse throughbore;

means for preventing said threaded end from passing back through said transverse throughbore;

and

means on said graft block for receiving a separate transverse member to attach the graft block at a predetermined point along the length of the tunnel, the transverse member being situated transverse to the axis of the bone tunnel and through the loop created by said intermediate connector, said ~~The graft retaining system of claim 1 wherein the support surface comprises~~ comprising a convex surface bounded on at least two sides by projecting side walls to retain the intermediate connector on the convex surface, wherein said intermediate connector is a suture-like material and wherein a pair of transverse throughbores are formed through the support surface generally parallel to the side-walls from

a first portion of the convex surface to a second portion of the convex surface, each of the throughbores being countersunk at at least one end such that the ends of the intermediate connector may be secured to the graft block by being threaded through respective throughbores knotted and pulled back into the countersunk ends of the throughbores.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A graft retaining system for retaining a graft in a bone tunnel comprising:

a graft block having a proximal end and a distal end, the graft block including a distally facing, saddle-shaped graft support surface at the distal end for supporting the graft, the graft block being sized to slidingly fit within the bone tunnel, the graft block further comprising a transverse proximally-facing abutment surface, said abutment surface comprising a proximally facing open groove formed transversely across the proximal end of the graft block, generally parallel to the graft support surface and located proximal to the graft support surface;

a tunnel attachment means engageable transversely with the bone tunnel and the abutment surface of the graft block to support the graft block in the bone tunnel, the tunnel attachment means being located proximally of the graft support surface such that tensile forces on the graft result in compressive forces on the graft block between the graft support surface and the tunnel attachment means; and

~~The graft retaining system of claim 7~~ wherein a pair of distally extending sockets is formed in the proximal end of the graft block within the open groove.

9. (Previously presented) The graft retaining system of claim 8 further comprising a pushing member including a flat, elongate body having a first end and a second end, the first end including a pair of prongs engageable with the pair of sockets, the prongs being movable longitudinally relative to the body between a first position in which the prongs extend from the body and a second position in which the prongs are withdrawn inside the body.

10. (Original) The graft retaining system of claim 9 further comprising a base member, the second end of the pushing member being engageable with the base member to position the first end in a predetermined position and orientation relative to the base member; and a guide connected to the base member and being aligned with the abutment surface of the graft block when the graft block is engaged with the pushing member and the pushing member is engaged with base member.

11. -14. (Cancelled)